

★ **Commander's** ★  
**Comments**  
by Lee Herron

April is here, and that means it is Confederate Heritage and History Month in the State of Georgia. That also means your presence will be required on the 18th of this month, at Magnolia Cemetery, to help honor our Confederate ancestors!

Remember, it is your duty to be there. Everyone has known about the Confederate Memorial Day service for a couple of months now, and there is no excuse for not being there to honor your ancestor, and the rest of our Southern Heroes. Don't forget that Pastor John Weaver will be our guest speaker.

We will need camp members, wives, and children present early on the morning of the service to help place flags on the soldiers' and generals' graves, to place the large state flags out behind the fountain, and to perform spot cleaning of the Confederate Dead section, and other sections. We will also need members to help set up chairs, help park vehicles, and to perform miscellaneous tasks. If you have never been to the service, or helped prepare for the service, you are missing out. It is a lot of work, but worth every minute. We must grow our core group of workers!

We will have a final cemetery clean-up on the 17th of April, the day before our service. We will begin at 8:00 a.m. that morning. Due to Masters being the 2nd week in

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Editorial: *Confederate Memorial Day*

## They Sacrificed All...Can't We Sacrifice a Little?

Several years after the War Between the States, Gen. Robert E. Lee, with his health failing, was sitting on his porch one day in his rocking chair. While there, two men from the Louisiana Lottery approached him. They came to make him a proposition which would have made Lee a rich man.

The General listened carefully as they laid out their plans, and he found it hard to believe what he had heard. Lee asked the men to repeat their offer again, thinking he may have misunderstood their offer. The men repeated their pitch and stated that they did not want Lee to invest any money. All they wanted was the use of his name for promotional purposes, and, as a result, make him rich.

Lee stood up, rising slowly and balanced himself on his crutches. He stood erect, looked the men in the eye, and with the courage and conviction that made him great as he was, he spoke some hot-tempered words. "Gentleman," he said, "I lost my home in the war. I lost my fortune in the war. I lost everything I had in the war except my name. My name is not for sale, and if you don't get out of here at once, I will hit you in the head with my crutch."

As interesting as this story is and the great lesson it provides, Gen. Lee's words reflect the life experiences of many of our Confederate ancestors who gave up fortunes, homes, family members, and sometimes life and limb for the cause of Southern Independence. These people—our life blood—were willing to leave prosperity, lands, and loved ones to fight in defense of the South—not for one month or for one year—but, for those who survived, for four long years. For many they were years of hard marching, sleeping on the ground, having little to eat, and having no protection from the elements, or inadequate clothing to be comfortable. Often, they witnessed their buddies or their relatives die of disease or the painful and, sometimes gruesome, death caused by the enemy's missiles. Yet, despite all, they were willing to endure the suffering, the discomfort, and the loss for the hope of independence and a better life for their descendants.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Alexander Camp will be holding memorial services for these men who valiantly struggled for a land that they could call their own. As we recall their suffering and their sacrifices, shouldn't we, with our prosperity and timesaving devices, be able to sacrifice a small portion of our time to attend those services that remember them? Can't we with our air-conditioned homes spare a few minutes "braving the elements" to remember these gallant men?

(Continued **Sacrifices** on page 3)

## Last Month's Meeting

### Compatriot Richard Smith Discusses the Cruise of the CSS *Shenandoah*

During last month's meeting of the Alexander Camp, Compatriot and Navy veteran Richard Smith discussed the Confederate raider, CSS *Shenandoah* which was commanded by James Waddell. He described how the Confederate agent in Britain, James Bulloch was able purchase the steam ship *Sea King* and sail her to Madeira where she was fitted with guns and christened the CSS *Shenandoah* in October 1864. From the Atlantic, *Shenandoah* sailed eastward capturing many Yankee ships releasing some and burning most of them. Stopping for repairs in Melbourne, Australia, the crew was feted before moving into the northern Pacific whaling grounds where they captured a number of Yankee whaling vessels. Learning of the surrender of Lee in August 1865, the *Shenandoah* returned to Britain having sailed over 58,000 miles during its 11 month cruise. Following the speech, Commander Herron presented Compatriot Smith with a photo of the Confederate Powder works.

Two applications for membership were presented to the camp, voted on and unanimously accepted: Michael Leonard who joins the camp on the service of his ancestor, Pvt. Thomas Lauder of Co. B, Cobb's Legion Cavalry, Richmond Hussars and Kenneth Kichens II who joins on the service of his ancestor, 1<sup>st</sup> CPL Stokes F. Ivey, of Co. F 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Georgia State Guards. A membership certificate was presented to David Amour who joined the camp on the service of his Confederate ancestor, Pvt. Willis D. Armour of Co. G, 61<sup>st</sup> Georgia Infantry Regiment.

Commander Herron thanked all those that attended re-enactments in Aiken and Broxton Bridge. He and Compatriot Posey attended the Georgia Division executive committee meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and he reported that the Oakland Cemetery obelisk in Atlanta was cleaned and the Gen. Leonidas Polk Monument was fenced at Pine Mountain. The Confederate Powder Works Chimney was discussed, and Compatriot Posey was instructed to contact Fred

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### *The Wig Wag*

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## Important Dates to Remember:

### Coming Events:

13 April: Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

**16 April: BGen E. Porter Alexander Camp Meeting**  
**Topic: Point Lookout Prison**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Sconyers Barbecue**

17 April: Virginia Secession Day

**17 April: Magnolia Cemetery Clean up**  
**8:00 AM**

**18 April: Confederate Memorial Day Services**  
**11:00 AM: Gather at Confederate Monument on Broad Street**  
**11:45 AM: Magnolia Cemetery, 3rd & Walton Way, Augusta**

**25 April: Confederate Marker Dedication Service**  
**1:00 PM**  
**Old Warrenton Cemetery**  
**Warrenton**

26 April: Confederate Memorial Day (Ala., Fla., Ga., Miss.)

**12-14 June: Georgia Division Reunion**  
**Fayetteville, Georgia**

### Notable Confederate Birthdays:

10 April: LGen. Leonida Polk\*

BGen. Thomas R. R. Cobb\*

BGen. James E. Rains\*

12 April: BGen. George B. Anderson\*

13 April: BGen. Leroy A. Stafford\*

15 April: Joseph E. Brown, Gov. GA

17 April: BGen. Philip St. George Cocke\*

21 April: Robert M. Hunter, Secy. State

23 April: John G. Shorter, Gov.

25 April: BGen. James Dearing\*

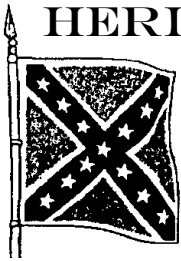
**26 April: MGen. Ambrose R. Wright**

1 May: MGen. John Bankhead Magruder

\*Died in Confederate service

Russell and the Augusta commissioners to determine if they would deed the structure to the Georgia Division. The committee discussed a new monument to North Carolina troops who fought at Altoona Pass and recommended a project which would create a WBTS sesquicentennial brochure to be given to camps for distribution. To offset the problem of

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# HERITAGE REPORT

The members of Camp #1552 McDonald in Kennesaw, Georgia recently discovered that the memorial battle flag and flag pole has been removed from the City of Kennesaw's Memorial/Centennial Park. The memorial Battle Flag was erected at the park in 1962 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the great locomotive chase between the Texas and the General and to honor all the Confederate units that was trained and sent to the front lines at the Confederate training camp, Camp McDonald.

On March 7<sup>th</sup> during the Georgia Division Executive Council meeting, a motion was made for the Georgia Division to draft a resolution to the City of Kennesaw requesting that they put back the pole and battle flag. The motion passed unanimously.

Please call Kennesaw's City Hall to voice your objections, e-mail the Mayor and the City Council Members and send them a personal letter if you can encouraging them to restore the Battle Flag, all in a respectful manner.

Kennesaw City Hall  
2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue  
Kennesaw, GA 30144  
770-424-8274 Fax: 770-429-4559

Mark Mathews, Mayor  
(770) 424-8274  
[mmathews@kennesaw-ga.gov](mailto:mmathews@kennesaw-ga.gov)

To contact the individual City Council members, go to the following web site:  
<http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/index.asp?nid=22>



## Sacrifices (Continued from page 1)

As Sons of Confederate Veterans, we are compelled by our charter to remember Confederate Memorial Day. Fulfill your vows to your Confederate ancestor and to the camp by attending these memorial services. Show these soldiers that their efforts and their sacrifices are not forgotten.

## Commander's Comments

(Continued from page 1)

April, we will have our regularly scheduled meeting on the 16th of April, 2009. I hope you will be able to attend, as the guest speaker will be Mr. Roy Vandegrift. Roy is the Adjutant/Treasurer/Editor of the B/G Milledge Luke Bohnam Camp #48 in Saluda, SC. He will give his talk on "Point Lookout, Maryland: Death Camp for Confederate Prisoners."

## Last Month's Meeting (Continued from page 2)

member retention and recruitment, the committee suggested each camp obtain a genealogist to help potential members find their Confederate ancestors.

Cmdr. Herron stated that the cost of Georgia Division recruitment signs has dropped to \$5.00, and that the camp had purchased nine of them. He stated that the committee approved a motion for the Division to lease a plot along I-75 to erect a 100 foot flag pole in the Flags Across Georgia campaign. It was suggested that each camp could donate \$100 for this effort.

He continued by saying that the Confederate History and Heritage Month Bill had passed the Georgia Senate and is to be voted upon in the House. Compatriots were instructed to contact their respective legislators and ask them to approve the bill

The camp was asked to support a UDC memorial service on April 11<sup>th</sup> in Waynesboro. The camp honor guard is expected to participate.

Cmdr. Herron reiterated the fact that ALL compatriots should support the Confederate Memorial Day services on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Compatriots were urged to arrive early to set up chairs and flags. He announced that there will be a Camp cleanup at the cemetery on March 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 AM.

The camp considered various vendors to produce new labels for the Camp's recruitment signs. One was selected, and a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Cmdr. Herron requested the expenditure of funds for items essential for the Confederate Memorial Day service. The motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

At the beginning of the meeting, Commander Herron requested prayers for Compatriot Keith Walker's father, Elliott; for Roy and Donna Williams; and for Jason and Andrea Quick.

Quartermaster Ben Creech, and Treasurer Nick Posey gave their reports.

The meeting was adjourned by Commander Herron. After the benediction, the camp sang *Dixie*.

## 145 Years Ago: Victory at Mansfield, Louisiana

- 8 April 1864: Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana. Federals badly routed by troops under Gen. Richard Taylor. Gen. Jean Mouton, a Confederate Cajun, is killed leading a charge
- 9 April 1864: Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana
- 11 April 1864: Federals retreat to Grand Ecore after being badly whipped at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana
- 12 April 1864: Forrest's cavalry assault and capture Ft. Pillow, Tenn. Texas Gen. Tom Green is killed at Blair's Landing, La.
- 19 April 1864: CSS *Albemarle* sinks USS *Smithfield* at Plymouth, NC
- 23 April 1864: Red River Campaign: Engagement at Monett's Ferry, La.
- 25 April 1864: Kirby Smith's command captures over 1000 Federals at Mark's Mill, Arkansas
- 30 April 1864: Battle of Jenkins Ferry, Ark.; Gen. W.R. Scurry of Texas is killed in action
- 5 May 1864: Battle of Wilderness, Virginia begins  
Atlanta Campaign: Five days of fighting begins at Rocky Face, Ridge, Georgia

**RIGHT:** Walker's Texas Division battle flag, from an unidentified Texas regiment, inscribed with battle honors "Mansfield, April 8th 1864" and "Pleasant Hill, April 9, 1864." The flag was carried in the two Louisiana battles that turned back Union General Nathaniel Bank's Red River Expedition, thus saving east Texas from conquest. It is one of only two so-called Taylor battle flags still in existence. (Taylor flags are named for General Richard Taylor, the Confederate commander in western Louisiana.) The Taylor flags are unusual because they are Saint Andrews cross flags with the colors reversed, i.e. a blue field instead of the famous red field, and a red rather than blue cross with white stars.

**Source:** Texas State Library and Archives Commission

## The Wig Wag

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*Editor*



## Next Camp Meeting Thursday, April 16th



**7:00 PM at  
Sconyers  
Barbecue**

**Windsor Springs &  
Peach Orchard  
Road**

### Scripture Thought

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

--I Corinthians: 15:20



**April is Confederate History & Heritage Month**

